

Silviu Itescu  
U.S. Serial No.: 10/693,480  
Filed: October 23, 2003  
Page 3

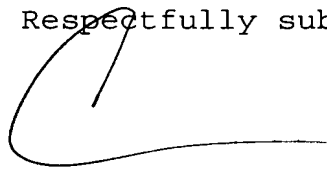
REMARKS

Applicant has hereinabove amended the specification to insert priority information. The time period set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and a(5)(ii) for claiming priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 or §365(c) is the later of four months from the filing of the later application, or 16 months from the filing of the prior application, i.e. February 23, 2004. Accordingly, this Second Preliminary Amendment is being timely filed.

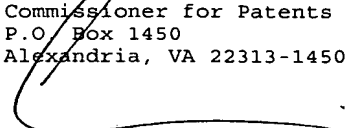
If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicant's undersigned attorneys invite the Examiner to telephone them at the number provided below.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Second Preliminary Amendment. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
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Date 2/18/04